This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (previously presented): For use in a router adapted to interact with an external router having, at a given time, a currently designated routing facility and a current standby routing facility, a method comprising:

a) accepting, from the external router, the identity of the currently designated routing facility;

b) accepting, from the currently designated routing facility of the external router when it is in a state of being the designated routing facility, network information;

c) using the network information accepted from the currently designated routing facility of the external router for determining routes; and

d) accepting, from the current standby routing facility of the external router when it is in a state of being the standby routing facility, network information, but not using it for determining routes.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The method of claim 20 further comprising:

e) storing the network information accepted from the current standby routing facility of the external router.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The method of claim 20 further comprising:

e) accepting, from the external router, an indication that the currently designated routing facility has failed;

f) accepting, from the external router, an indication that the formerly current standby routing facility has been elected as a new designated routing facility; and

g) using path information from the newly elected new designated routing facility.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The method of claim 21 further comprising:

f) accepting, from the external router, an indication that the currently designated routing facility has failed;

g) accepting, from the external router, an indication that the formerly current standby routing facility has been elected as a new designated routing facility; and

h) using the network information from the formerly current standby routing facility that is now the newly elected new designated routing facility.

Claim 24 (previously presented): A router adapted to interact with an external router having, at a given time a currently designated routing facility and a current standby routing facility, the router comprising:

a) an input for

i) accepting, from the external router, the identity of the currently designated routing facility, and

ii) accepting, from the currently designated routing facility of the external router when it

is in a state of being the designated routing facility, network information; and

b) a routing facility for

i) using the network information accepted from the currently designated routing facility of the external router for determining routes, and

ii) accepting, from the current standby routing facility of the external router when it is in a state of being the standby routing facility, network information, but not using it for determining routes.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The router of claim 24 further comprising:

c) a storage device for storing the network information accepted from the current standby routing facility of the external router.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The router of claim 24 wherein the input is further adapted for

iii) accepting, from the external router, an indication that the currently designated routing facility has failed, and

iv) accepting, from the external router, an indication that the formerly current standby routing facility has been elected as a new designated routing facility, and

wherein the routing facility is further adapted to use path information from the newly elected new designated routing facility when the input accepts the indication that the formerly current standby routing facility has been elected as the new designated routing facility.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The method of claim 25 wherein the input is further adapted for

iii) accepting, from the external router, an indication that the currently designated routing facility has failed, and

iv) accepting, from the external router, an indication that the formerly current standby routing facility has been elected as a new designated routing facility, and

wherein the routing facility is further adapted to use the network information that was accepted from the formerly current standby routing facility and that was stored, if it is newly elected as the new designated routing facility.

Claim 28 (original): A machine-readable medium having machine readable instructions stored thereon which, when executed by a machine, effect the method of claim 20.

Claims 29-34 (canceled)

Claim 35 (previously presented): The method of claim 20 wherein the router and the external router belong to different autonomous systems.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The router of claim 24 wherein the router and the external router belong to different autonomous systems.